

# **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**June 12, 2009**

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## NOTES

1. Call to Order – 8:30 am by Rick Landavazo
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
  - Gardner Grady – I am from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association and I am here to learn more about trails and specifically trails open to mountain bikes.
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
  - Paul Davis – Handed out new Quail Botanical Gardens brochure. June 13, 2009 is the opening of their new children's garden.
  - John Degenfelder – We just opened a new pathway in Ramona.
  - Rod Groenewold – The trails linking Guajome to the new Vista sports park is going to be completed next week.
  - Rick Landavazo – The Friends of Hellhole Canyon marched in the Western Days parade.
  - Rick Landavazo – I was wondering if it would be possible to have the PAC involved in the hiring process for the new Director position.
    - ♦ Renee Hilton – I don't know how far along in the process they are, so I am unable to tell you if they would be able to accommodate this request. I will forward this request up and even if they are too far along in the process for this current recruitment it could be an idea for future recruitments.
4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mary Niez
  - Distributed the May Monthly Accomplishments.
  - Hilton Head Aquatic Playground received a NACPRO Award of Excellence and was featured in the World Water Park magazine.
  - There was a youth Yoga Camping Trip and Outdoor Adventure kayaking trip held in May.
5. NEW PAC LIAISON – Renee Hilton
  - I would like to introduce to you the new department PAC liaison Peggy Rose. She will be taking over the duties of this committee from Mary Niez.
    - ♦ Peggy Rose - I have been with the County of San Diego for over 20 years. I am the Information Technology Coordinator for the department, so I help everyone with their computer and phone issues. I am looking forward to working with this group.
  - I would also like to give an extra special thank you to Mary for her service and support to this committee over the last year.
6. PLDO & CSA Fund Balance Report - Renee Hilton
  - Distributed CSA and PLDO reports.
7. PLDO REPORT – Charley Marchesano
  - The Park Lands Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) authorized DPR to require park improvements or collect in lieu fees as part of the permit process when someone seeks approval for residential projects.

- The funds can only be used for active recreation, which includes items like playgrounds, ballfields, and picnic areas. It does not include items like trails, open space and staging areas.
    - ◆ Rod Groenewold – Up in the Vista area it is already mostly built out, so you are not getting any big developments or funding for this and there is not much area left to be able to build parks, so I think that there are a lot of missed opportunities with using this money for trails and trail connections.
    - ◆ Rob Hutsel – Is the passive vs. active defined by the county or someone else?
  - It is defined by the county's ordinance.
  - We are actively trying to seek out any opportunities for trails and connections as well, we just cannot do it with these funds.
 

Rick – there are some areas where there was a lot of expenditures, can you explain some of these large expenditures?
  - In Spring Valley we worked with Chairwoman Jacob's office and some of the school districts in the area to assist with joint projects
  - Lakeside has 2 projects that we are working on which are tennis courts and a fitness area.
  - Ramona we provided funding to assist with the upgrades to their sports fields.
    - ◆ John Degenfelder – the Ramona trails association also helped in the Ramona area to rehabilitate and improve the trails in the area around this.
  - We do also charge our staff time to these accounts when we work on projects in these areas. This includes charging staff time when they meet with the community planning groups, prepare plans or designs, etc. It is not just when there is actual construction going on.
    - ◆ Rick Landavazo – I am wondering about the joint projects and how the public finds out and is made aware of these fields, areas, etc that are joint projects that are open to the public . I think that many times people are not aware of the fact that they can use these facilities and think that they should be made aware to use these great resources in their communities.
  - What is usually required is for the owner to post signage and give access to the facility as well as posting it on their websites, etc.
    - ◆ Rob Hutsel – what is the best way for the general public to participate in this process?
  - The local community planning groups are the best way for the public to participate in this process. The central mountain has two sponsor groups that we work with, which has worked well.
  - All of the various planning and sponsor groups are open to the public. You can access the contact information and meeting dates on the County of San Diego's website.
    - ◆ Rick Landavazo – I just think that it is really important for people to know about the additional recreational opportunities in their communities, especially for those areas that do not have as many parks in their communities.
    - ◆ Rod Groenewold – I think that it would be beneficial to let people on this committee know when there are projects/plans in our respective communities
8. Budget – Renee Hilton
- On May 24, 2009 the BOS heard the proposed operational plan. This plan still included the same \$1.6 m reduction in general funds.
  - There was some public testimony on June 9, 2009, which was mainly focused on some senior programs.

- Budget deliberations are on June 23, 2009 where the Board of Supervisors will hear any last comments and then have discussion with any of the departments or programs that they want any additional information on.
- It is more than likely that on June 24, 2009 they will adopt the proposed plan
  - ♦ Rick Landavazo – What is the possibility that there will be budget revisions after the budget is adopted so we know if there is a chance the closed parks will reopen.
- Usually once it is adopted we proceed exactly how we proposed in the operational plan with the planned reductions. If there was some additional funding that came up during the year it would be for a one-time project.
  - ♦ Rod Groenewold – Does the county have a mechanism that if a non-profit or some group came in and said that they wanted to give the funding for a project or fund reopening a preserve, etc?
  - ♦ Rob Hutsel – Will there be some type of report or list that may show the impacts/effects that the various cuts and closures has had on the department, the specific programs/facilities/parks/preserves maybe mid-year so that we can
- We reconsider our proposed operations plan every time we know that we are going to get or have additional funding so we are always looking at these types of issues.
  - ♦ Rob Hutsel – I'd like to request a report on the impacts of closures on the preserves covering such issues as emergency responses, illegal preserve usage.
  - ♦ Members also requested a report on the impact of the new user fee schedule implemented in January 2009.
- We will provide those after we have had a chance to gather information on the impacts.

## 9. Adjournment at 10:00 am

### ATTENDEES

John Degenfelder, District 2

Paul Davis, District 3

Rob Hutsel, District 4

Rod Groenewold, District 5

Rick Landavazo, District 5

Renee Hilton, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Mary Niez, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Peggy Rose, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Charley Marchesano, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation